THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

The Department of the Navy (Navy) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have issued a Proposed Plan for addressing contaminated soils associated with Sites 6 and 7 at the former Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) in Warminster, PA. This Proposed Plan, which has been issued as part of the Navy's Installation Restoration Program and in response to the requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (also known as the Superfund Law), proposes the next step of the clean-up process of NAWC Warminster. The soils at Sites 6 and 7 along with potential waste materials comprise OU-7 at the base. Site 6 was reportedly used for disposal activities between 1960 and 1980. Waste materials were reportedly disposed in pits through general dumping and backfilling. Site 7 allegedly consisted of two disposal trenches that were used from 1950 to 1955. The Navy conducted limited removal actions in 1997 to address contaminated soils at both sites. The remedial investigation (RI) report for Sites 6 and 7 discusses the residual risks posed by OU-7. The feasibility study (FS) report for OU-7 evaluates various alternatives for eliminating unacceptable risks identified in the RI report.

The purpose of the OU-7 Proposed Plan is to solicit public comment on the alternatives for addressing contaminated soils and potential wastes attributable to Sites 6 and 7. The objective of each alternative is to eliminate unacceptable risks associated with potential exposure to site-related subsurface soils under a recreational land use scenario, which is the approved planned future use of the property occupied by Sites 6 and 7. The alternatives are generally described as follows:

1. Take no action.
2. Install and maintain a 2-foot vegetated soil cover; implement land use and other institutional controls; monitor the effectiveness of the remedy.
3. Focused excavation, treatment, and disposal at an off-base facility; install and maintain a 2-foot vegetated soil cover; implement institutional controls; monitor the effectiveness of the remedy.
4. Expanded excavation, treatment, and disposal at an off-base facility; install and maintain a 2-foot vegetated soil cover; implement institutional controls; monitor the effectiveness of the remedy.
5. Completion excavation, treatment, and disposal at an off-base facility.

The Navy and EPA have identified Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative for OU-7.

The Navy and EPA have also released a Proposed Plan for addressing Site 4 at the base. Soil, surface water, and sediment at Site 4 comprise OU-6 at the base. Site 4 reportedly operated from 1966 to 1973 and is located along the Navy's property boundary north of the inactive runway at the base. At least eight separate trenches at the site may have been used to dispose of waste materials and other debris. The Navy completed a removal action at Site 4 in 1996. The RI report for Site 4 discusses the risks posed by OU-6. These risks support the determination that no further remedial action is necessary to ensure protection of human health and the environment, given current and reasonably anticipated future land uses projected for the Site 4 area. Based on available information, the preferred option proposed for public comment by the Navy and EPA is no action.

The public is invited to attend a meeting at the North America Technology Center conference room on March 1, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. during which time the Navy and EPA will present and discuss the Proposed Plans for OU-6 (Site 4) and OU-7 (Sites 6 and 7). The address is 626 Jacksonville Road north of Street Road. The community may provide comments, ask questions, and participate in the discussion during this meeting.

The Navy also solicits written comments from the community during the public comment period, which is from February 16 through March 17, 2000. Send comments to Tom Ames, Caretaker Site Office, P.O. Box 2609, Warminster, PA 18974-0061. Please note that all comments must be postmarked on or before March 17, 2000. After consideration of the public comments, the Navy and EPA will select final remedies for OU-6 and OU-7. For more information, copies of the Proposed Plans, or directions to the meeting, call (215) 441-1112.